

California Regional Water Resources Control Board

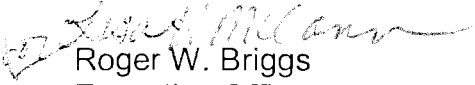
Central Coast Region

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>
895 Acrovista Place – Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

Date: February 4, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TO: Interested Parties

FROM:  Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: POSTPONING STAFF EFFORTS TO PREPARE THE SANTA MARIA AND OSO FLACO NUTRIENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FINAL PROJECT REPORT FOR REGIONAL BOARD APPROVAL

Water Board staff is postponing key tasks associated with the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL project (Project). The Project is postponed to accommodate several related, concurrent efforts and associated stakeholder involvement. Staff will assess the timing of the completion of the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL during the 2008-09 TMDL Program review and preparation of the 2009-10 TMDL Program workplan (June 2009).

Summary

Water Board staff completed a Draft Project Report for the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL dated September 9, 2008. The Draft Project Report incorporated the following impaired water bodies as part of the TMDL: Oso Flaco Lake, Oso Flaco Creek and Little Oso Flaco Creek; the Santa Maria Estuary and River and its tributaries, Main Street Canal, Bradley Channel, Blosser Channel, Bradley Canyon Creek, and Orcutt-Solomon Creek (collectively referred to as the project area). These water bodies were impaired due to nitrate, unionized ammonia, nutrients, or a combination thereof.

After consideration of comments received by stakeholders and the status of several related, concurrent Water Board efforts, staff is postponing key Project tasks. Staff will deviate from the current TMDL Program workplan and schedule insofar as the Final Project Report will not be developed by February 2009, 2) Public review of the Final Project Report will not occur by June 2009, and 3) 1 and 2 and subsequent tasks, will be rescheduled following June 2009. Water Board staff will proceed with submitting the Draft Project Report to scientific peer review prior to June 2009.

California Regional Water Resources Control Board

Central Coast Region

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>
895 Aerovista Place – Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

Background

The Draft Project Report included a description of the listed impairments to municipal and domestic water supply beneficial uses from nitrate, and to aquatic life beneficial uses from ammonia toxicity, and an expanded scope to include protection of aquatic habitat and other beneficial uses from nutrients. In addition, the Draft Project Report included an analysis of nutrient sources and concentrations in the project area. Staff also proposed numeric targets, allocations, TMDLs; and an Implementation Plan to achieve project goals. In October 2008, staff held a public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting, and circulated several Santa Maria and Oso Flaco TMDL documents for public review, including the Draft Project Report. Staff received numerous comments from stakeholders.

Additionally, development and implementation of the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL relies on many related and concurrent Water Board efforts. Some of these efforts, such as the renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, 2008 303(d) list update, Storm Water Management Programs, Central Coast Irrigation and Nutrient Management Program grant, and related activities, are at critical points of development, modification, and/or implementation. Many Project stakeholders are also involved in these concurrent efforts.

Thus, staff is postponing further efforts to prepare the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Final Project Report for the Nutrient TMDL for public review and approval by the Regional Board. Postponement of the Project will increase efficiency, minimize redundancy and maximize coordination with the related efforts. In June 2009, staff will assess the timing of the completion of the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL during the 2008-09 TMDL Program review and preparation of the 2009-10 TMDL Program workplan.

For additional information regarding this postponement, please call TMDL Program Manager Chris Rose, at crose@waterboards.ca.gov or 805-542-4770. To be placed on the Interested Parties list or if you have any questions regarding the technical nature of this TMDL project, please contact Katie McNeill at kmcneill@waterboards.ca.gov or 805-549-3336.

Current and future status of this TMDL is posted on the Water Board website at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/TMDL/303dandTMDLprojects.htm>

Cc:



California Regional Water Resources Control Board

Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>
895 Aerovista Place – Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Janet Parrish, TMDL Liaison to Central Coast Regional Board, US EPA
Rik Rasmussen, TMDL Section Chief, State Water Resources Control Board
Lisa McCann, Watershed Protection Section Manager
Chris Rose, TMDL Program Manager
Alison Jones, Agricultural Waiver Program Lead
Matt Thompson, Stormwater Program Manager
Angela Schroeter, Grants Coordinator
Santa Maria and Oso Flaco River Nutrient TMDL Interested Parties List

File: Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Nutrient TMDL

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\Santa Maria and Oso Flaco\Nitrate and Ammonia\0
Work In Progress\Items for Senior Review\SMOFNutTMDL Postpone Memo Draft.doc

